

EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING IN EUROPE

**AND THE WAYS THAT SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
TOGETHER CAN PREVENT IT**



Erasmus+

Who are the early school leavers?

- In EU, early school leaver is a **young person (18-24 years old) with only lower secondary education or less and no longer in education or training**
- 2016, **10.7%** of all 18 to 24 years olds were early school leavers
- That is more than **4 million** young people
- In most countries, boys are more likely to leave school prematurely than girls
- Also, young people from a migrant background are often on a higher risk of early school leaving

The importance of ESL prevention

The ESL rate has already dropped from 17% in 2002 to 10,7% in 2016

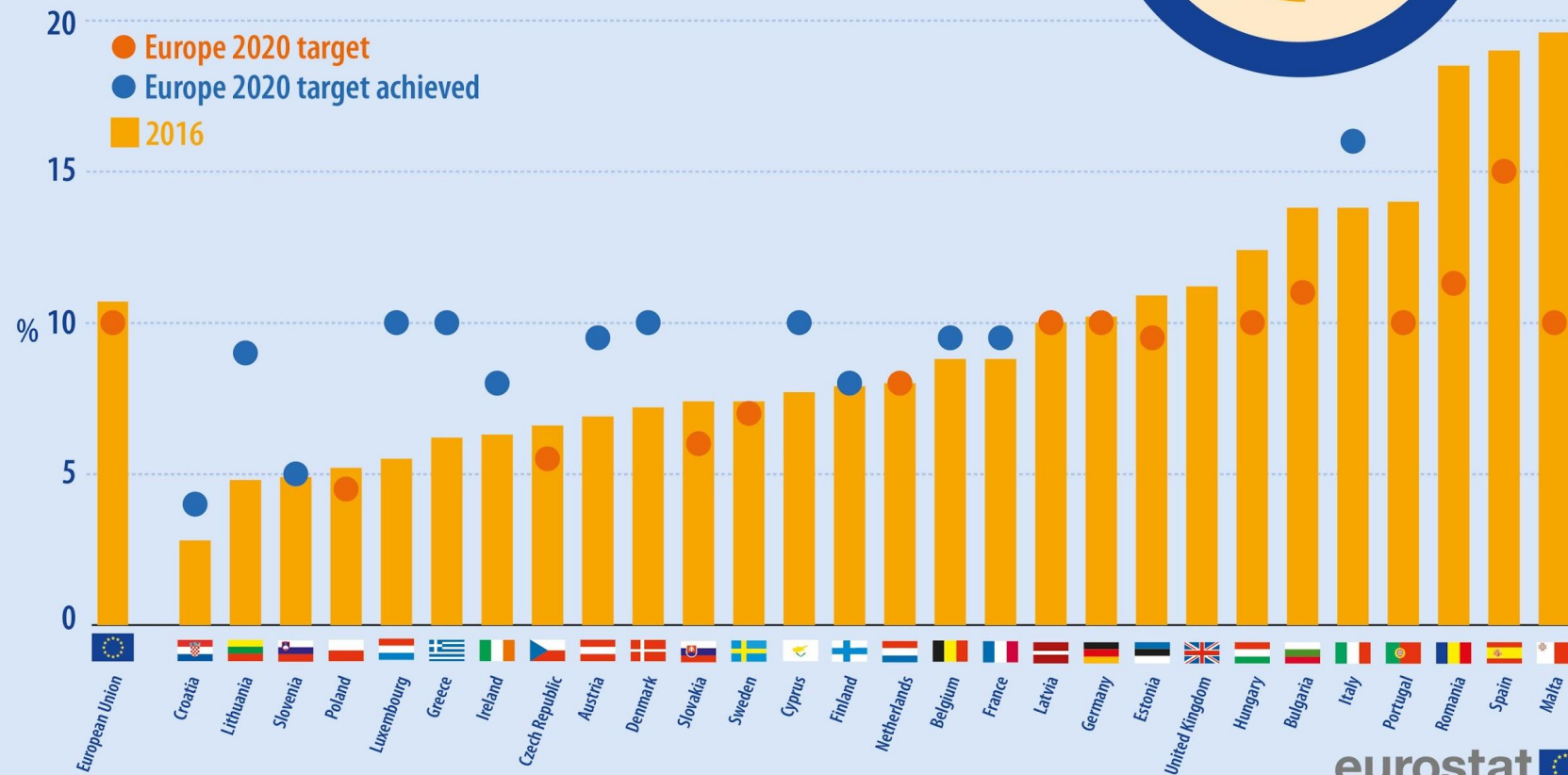
EU countries have committed to reduce ESL below 10% by 2020

- Early school leavers have a higher risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion
- For example, in 2012, 40% of early school leavers were unemployed

Early school leaving in Europe

Early leavers from education and training in the EU Member States

(% of those aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who were not in further education or training)



Different reasons for early school leaving

- Personal or family problems
- Learning difficulties
- Socio-economic situation

- The way the education system is set up
- School climate
- Teacher-student relations

Decision to leave school is always a interplay of many different factors



SOCIETY

SCHOOL
TEACHERS

FAMILY

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING PREVENTION

Home environment that encourages learning

- Parents as co-educators
- Information for families about how to help children at home with schoolwork



Support for disadvantaged families

- Additional support for students
- Services and professionals (social workers, mentors...)
- Clear information of education and school options

Family-school partnership

- Promoting mutual trust and understanding
- Inviting parents to take part in school activities
- Improving the channels of communication (meetings, websites, emails, messaging...)

Engaging curriculum

- Student centered teaching
- Different assessment styles

Safe and welcoming school environment

- Bullying prevention
- Support to address mental health issues (counselling, activities...)



Engagement in the school community

- Interactive teaching and dialogue in the classroom
- Student councils
- School programs
- Participation of students in school decision making

Targeted intervention for students at risk

- Early detection
- Systematic support framework in schools (multi-disciplinary teams, professionals...)
- Family involvement

Career guidance

- Career education as a part of curriculum from early stages of education
- Work experience programmes
- Empowering students to pursue their interests

Flexible educational pathways

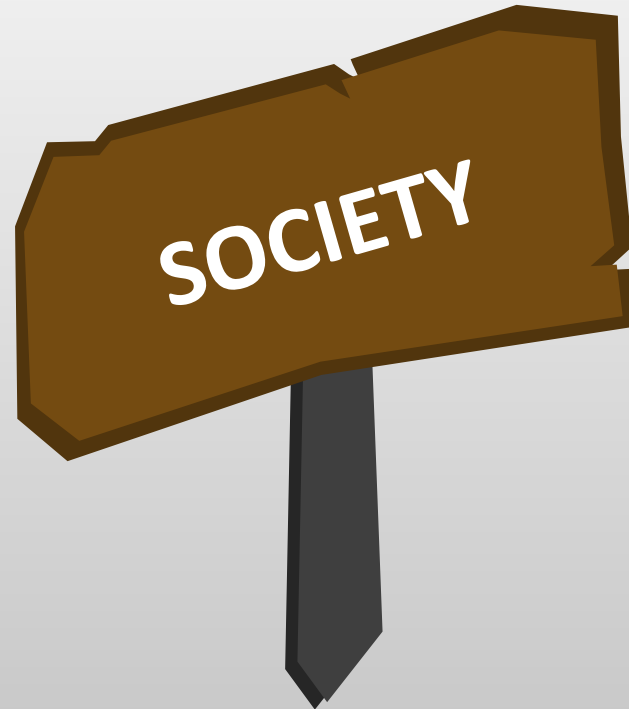
- Less obligatory choices, especially at an early age
- Individualized learning
- Rethinking obligatory entry tests

Easy access to good quality education

- Especially early childhood education
- Improving access to education in rural areas

Integration of immigrant families

- Language support
- Inclusivity



Teachers' training

- Teachers' competences
- Understanding early school leaving

High quality vocational training

- Equal value to academic education
- Progression to higher education

In conclusion

1

Support from families

2

Engaging and student focused school environment

3

Effective interventions and support network for students at risk

SUPPORT

EMPOWERMENT

INDIVIDUALITY